

Mr. Kuroda has sent us a copy of his paper on the migration of some of the commoner waders of Japan, which runs to a good many pages and is evidently of considerable importance. It is also published by the Japanese Ornithological Society. It would certainly be of the greatest assistance to European ornithologists if, at any rate, a short summary in some European language of these doubtless valuable researches could be appended to the original Japanese.

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*List of other Ornithological Publications received.*

- BONHOTE, T. L. Bird-liming in Lower Egypt. (Cairo, 1919.)  
 HOPKINSON, E. A List of the Birds of the Gambia. (Brighton, 1919.)  
 MATHEWS, G. M. Austral Avian Record. (Vol. iii. no. 7.)  
 MULLENS, W. H., SWANN, H. K., and JOURDAIN, F. C. R. A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology. Part 1. (1919.)  
 SWANN, H. K. Synoptical List of the Accipitres. (Part 2.)  
 THORBURN, A. A Naturalist's Sketch-Book.  
 WITHERBY, H. F. A Practical Handbook of British Birds. (Part 5.)  
 Avicultural Magazine. (Vol. x. no. 12.)  
 Bulletin of the Pan-American Union. (Aug. 1919.)  
 France. (1918, no. 1.)  
 Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam. (Vol. iii. no. 3.)  
 Revista Centro de Cultura Cientifica. (1919, no. 4.)  
 Revue Française d'Ornithologie. (Nos. 124-125.)
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VIII.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

DEAR SIR,—The following observations of birds were made by me whilst on board the Liverpool steamer 'Ikala,' and may be of interest to your readers.

On 1 November, when the ship was in Lat. 49° 30' N., Long. 30° W.—roughly 750 miles west of the south of Ireland—quite a stream of land-birds visited it. At 8 A.M., G.M.T., there were resting on board or circling round several Chaffinches (all males), two Starlings, one Missel Thrush, four Skylarks, and one Kittiwake. Half a gale was blowing from the east, and a long heavy swell from that direction indicated a storm between us and the land. At 2 P.M. a Skua came aboard in an exhausted condition, and

during the afternoon I noted one Brambling, one Skylark, more Starlings, and some Storm Petrels. Towards dark eight or nine Black-headed Gulls made their appearance and a Heron tried to alight on the ship, which was pitching heavily, and then drifted to leeward.

The wireless weather report received the previous night recorded an "anti-cyclone between Iceland and the Faroes." Thirty-six hours previously we had experienced a gale from the S.W. lasting two days and nights.

Early in the morning of 2 November we ran into a very heavy gale from the S.E., and it blew at about sixty miles per hour for about forty-eight hours.

Yours, etc.,

Whitfield House,  
Goathland, Yorks.

W. RAW, M.B.O.U.

SIR,—Colonel Verner has been corresponding with me with reference to Mr. Jourdain's letter, "The number of eggs laid by the Blackbird in Spain," which appears in the October number of 'The Ibis.'

In this letter Colonel Verner's name and book on Spain are mentioned.

He has asked me to write to you and say that since his book, 'My life among the Wild Birds in Spain,' was published he has seen several nests of the Spanish Blackbird containing more than three eggs.

The first occasion was on 9 May, 1910, when in Colonel Verner's company, I found a nest of this species containing four considerably incubated eggs.

He was much struck by my find and remarked that this was the first occasion that he had seen a nest of the Spanish Blackbird containing more than three eggs during his thirty-five years' experience of the birds of southern Spain.

On the following day two more nests, each containing four fresh to slightly incubated eggs, were found.

To the best of my recollection these were the only three Blackbirds' nests found in 1910 and 1911 by me or Colonel Verner with more than three eggs, though a good many were examined.

Colonel Verner informs me that since 1911 he has from time to time noted Blackbirds' nests in Spain with four eggs but none with five.

It is consequently obvious that nests containing more than three eggs are by no means unusual nowadays, but it is certainly curious that this should be the case now and not ten years and more ago.

Is it possible that the Spanish Blackbird has become more prolific for some reason unknown?

Climate, food, and vegetation cannot have altered appreciably, but the number of those interested in Spanish oology has undoubtedly increased since those days and more nests are probably examined in consequence.

The Forest,  
Kerry, Montgomeryshire.  
20 November, 1919.

Yours faithfully,

W. M. CONGREVE,  
Captain R.A.

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DEAR SIR,—I enclose the following *Erratum* :—

In 'The Ibis,' October 1917, p. 584 (T. Carter, "On the Birds of Dirk Hartog Island and Peron Peninsula"), for *Lamprococcyx plagosus carteri* (Western Bronze Cuckoo) read *Neochalcites basalis wyndhami* (Western Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo).

The two specimens of the above bird, *basalis*, and the bulk of the collections obtained on Dirk Hartog Island in 1916 were left in the care of the Perth Museum in West Australia until quite recently, on account of marine risks, and were only received here last week.

Upon checking them over, I found that both the skins are labelled *basalis*.

Sutton,  
15 November, 1919.

THOMAS CARTER.

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#### Fifth Annual Oological Dinner.

The fifth Oological Dinner was held at Pagani's Restaurant on Wednesday, 10 September, 1919. Thirty-seven gentlemen were present, including a large number of members of the B. O. U. Lord Rothschild took the Chair at 7 o'clock.

After the loyal toast, the Chairman in his opening remarks announced that, owing to the success of these gatherings the Committee had decided to hold *two* Dinners and Exhibitions annually in future.

The CHAIRMAN then exhibited the following eggs:—

*Locustella fluviatilis*. Three clutches from Hungary, and about fifty eggs, illustrating variation, from Breslau in Silesia.

*Locustella luscinioides*. Seven clutches from Hungary and Roumania.

*Sylvia nana deserti*. Six clutches from the western (Algerian) Sahara.

*Scotocerca inquieta saharae*. Three clutches from the western Sahara.

*Acrocephalus syrinx*. Three clutches from Guam (Marianne Is.).

*Prinia inornata*. Two clutches, showing extremes of variation, from India.

*Metabolus rugensis*. A rare Flycatcher from Guam (Marianne Is.). The clutch consists of one egg only.

*Cleptornis marihei*. A rare Honey-eater from Saipan (Marianne Is.). Three clutches.

*Crex crex*. An extraordinary heavily blotched set of eight eggs from Northamptonshire.

The following clutches of eggs were exhibited by MR. ROBERT W. CHASE:—

*Sylvia communis*. Six clutches. One set of white eggs.

*Sylvia curruca*. Six clutches, very fine varieties.

*Sylvia simplex*. Six clutches, one set blotched and streaked all over.

*Sylvia atricapilla*. Six clutches, including a splendid set of the erythristic type.

*Melizophilus undatus dartfordiensis*. Four clutches taken at Churt, Surrey, so long ago as 1864.

*Locustella naevia*. Four clutches. In one set all the markings form a perfect zone at the large end.

*Acrocephalus streperus*. Six clutches. In one set the

ground-colour is white with pinkish-grey shell-markings ; another is an extraordinary set of pale cream-grounded eggs very slightly freckled with brown.

*Acrocephalus palustris*. Two boldly marked clutches.

*Acrocephalus schænobæus*. Six clutches, fine varieties, including an unusually light-coloured set.

*Phylloscopus trochilus*. Six clutches, fine varieties, including a set marked with large reddish blotches.

*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Six clutches.

*Phylloscopus collybita*. Six clutches. One of these sets contains four white eggs, the others with two spots of dark brown.

*Regulus cristatus*. Two clutches. In one set the marks on the eggs form perfect zones.

The Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN exhibited eggs of the following Warblers :—

(a) A series of five clutches of Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia m. melanocephala*) showing remarkable variation, ranging from red and grey types to a very boldly blotched type—all taken by himself in Spain and Corsica.

(b) A clutch of Bowman's Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala momus*), till quite recently almost unknown in collections, from Mesopotamia.

(c) A clutch of Ménétries' Warbler (*Sylvia mystacea*) from S.W. Persia ; also extremely rare.

(d) Two clutches of Palestine Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) from Cyprus. Only four other clutches are known to have been taken.

(e) One clutch of La Marmora's Warbler (*Sylvia sarda*) from Sicily.

(f) Two clutches of Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata undata*) from Spain, showing the red and green types.

(g) One clutch of Clamorous Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*) from Mesopotamia. An unusual variety.

(h) One clutch of Paddyfield Warbler (*A. agricola*) from Kashmir.



(i) Three clutches of Blyth's Reed-Warbler (*A. dumetorum*) from the Altai district, showing considerable variation. These eggs are scarce.

(j) A clutch of the Japanese Bush-Warbler (*Cettia cantans*). An unusual variety.

(k) A clutch of the scarce *Urosphæna squameiceps* from Japan.

Mr. STAINES BOORMAN exhibited:—

(a) A very finely-zoned set of Dartford Warbler. British taken.

(b) Three clutches of five eggs each, of the rose-coloured variety of the Blackcap. All taken in Surrey within a half mile radius, in 1908.

(c) Two clutches of seven, and three of six, of the Wood-Warbler, taken in the New Forest and Dulverton districts. One set very finely marked with dark blotches, and another set very lightly marked. Other sets showing varieties.

Mr. P. B. SMYTH exhibited:—

(a) A clutch of Whitethroat's eggs, of which two were pure white, the third like a Sedge-Warbler's, and the fourth like a Garden-Warbler's.

(b) A rarely marked and abnormally large clutch of nine of the Willow-Warbler.

(c) Cuckoo with two Marsh-Warbler (British) and a drawer of Marsh-Warbler's eggs, showing wide variation.

Mr. R. H. READ exhibited a series of nests and eggs of British and Continental Warblers, including several species of *Phylloscopus* and *Hypolais*. Also nests and eggs of Rufous Warbler, Great Reed-Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Orphean Warbler, Spectacled-Warbler, Grasshopper-Warbler, and Marsh-Warbler from Somerset and Dorset. Also of Lesser Whitethroat with white eggs (Somerset), and a very heavily marked set of six (Sweden). Also of Blackcap with red eggs (Somerset), Garden-Warbler with pure white eggs (Sussex), Dartford Warbler (Surrey), Sedge-Warbler with very fine red eggs (Scotland) and another with white

eggs (Thames). Also a fine nest of Nightingale, together with nest and eggs of Northern Nightingale (Denmark) for comparison.

Among the clutches exhibited by Mr. Read without nests, the following call for special mention:—Common White-throat, fine red eggs and a pink clutch; Sardinian Warbler, red and green phases; Grasshopper-Warbler, large eggs heavily zoned at larger end (Northumberland); Nightingale, a set of green eggs from Corsica as large as those of the Northern Nightingale; Willow-Warbler, a very heavily marked set from Kent.

Mr. Read also showed a curious double nest of the Great Tit (Somerset) and another of the same species which he had found built in the open in a hawthorn bush. The bird was sitting on the nest, which contained three eggs.

MR. EDGAR CHANCE exhibited the wonderful series of Cuckoo's eggs, taken by himself in the seasons of 1918 and 1919. Full particulars of these will be found in *British Birds' Magazine* (January 1919 and September 1919). The series is quite unique in its completeness, and probably forms one of the most important additions to our knowledge of Cuckoo problems that has ever been made.

MR. F. G. LUPTON exhibited:—

(a) A set of four erythristic Lapwing's eggs, taken near Settle, Yorkshire. Ground-colour very rich, but markings normal.

(b) A clutch of four Lapwing's eggs, of the very rare cyanic form. Mr. Lupton remarked that this was the only set he had ever obtained from among over 450,000 Lapwing's eggs inspected during 24 years, and that it appears to be rarer than the erythristic phase. Taken near Settle.

(c) A clutch of six Swallow, taken in 1875 by the late Thomas Altham of Lancashire. The eggs are smaller and rounder than usual, with extremely large blotches of two shades.

(d) A set of two Nightjar, from the late Frank Norgate's

collection. One egg white without markings, the other only slightly marked.

(e) A set of five Red-backed Shrike (British) with three white eggs, the other two with only one or two pale lilac spots.

(f) A clutch of six Tree-Pipit (British). Pale blue eggs, with faint reddish markings.

MR. D. W. MUSSELWHITE exhibited a series of eggs of the Pallid Shrike (*Lanius excubitor elegans*) collected in the neighbourhood of Kantara, Suez Canal. All the eggs were taken by the exhibitor, and mostly in 1919.

MR. RENAULT exhibited a fine series of British Warbler's eggs. These included a set of Reed-Warbler's resembling the Marsh-Warbler's, and four fine sets laid by the latter bird. Also eggs of the Grasshopper and the Dartford Warbler showing distinct types.

MR. E. C. STUART BAKER exhibited a large number of eggs of Indian Warblers and made the following remarks:—

“The first five boxes exhibited contain series of eggs of the various geographical races of *Prinia inornata* and are very interesting in that, unlike what obtains amongst the vast majority of eggs of geographical races of the same species, these little birds show an extraordinary difference in the coloration. *Prinia i. jerdoni* from Ceylon has very bright blue eggs well marked with tiny black horse-hair lines chiefly intertwined at the larger end. Less numerous are large blotches and spots of deep purple-black and black. In India the typical *P. i. inornata* has eggs precisely the same but a trifle less brilliantly blue and with, as a series, fewer lines and more blotches. Next in Assam and Upper Burma we have *P. i. burmanica*, similar but again duller, and rarely with a reddish tinge; below these, in southern Burma, we have *P. i. blanfordi*, in which the prevailing tinge is pink, the blue having practically disappeared except in a very few clutches. Finally, we come to Siam, in which country we find *P. i. herberti* laying eggs of a brilliant pale pink, whilst the markings are of deep chocolate-red, blood-red, and blackish red. We thus pass from what, broadly



speaking, is a brilliant blue egg to an equally brilliant pink one. The reasons for this transition are not obvious. It is true that the red eggs occur in the wettest climate, and that the birds laying them often breed in grass lands in, or surrounded by, swamps. On the other hand, as the range works north from Ceylon to Assam and thence again east and south to Siam, we pass through areas of considerable drought and yet find no corresponding change in the colour.

“The next lot of boxes contains series of eggs of another species of Warbler, the subspecies of which range over the same area as the last, but whereas the various races of *Prinia inornata* lay eggs which vary little in any given area, this bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*) lays eggs—as may be seen from the exhibit—which vary immensely throughout each portion of the whole of its range. But an examination of the exhibit will show that *Orthotomus sutorius sutorius*, *O. s. atrigularis* (possibly a different species), *O. s. maculicollis*, and *O. ruficeps* lay eggs which, however greatly they vary *inter se*, cannot be assigned to any one species or subspecies by an inspection of the eggs alone. As a contrast to the extreme variation in type in the eggs of *Orthotomus* I show here boxes containing eggs of (1) Warblers of the *Prinia flavirostris* group, and (2) Warblers of the *Horornis* group, which show how singularly uniform the eggs of these two groups are throughout their whole range, the first-named always laying brick-red eggs, and the second equally constantly chocolate-coloured ones.

“A rather interesting contrast in the eggs of closely allied genera is shown in the two succeeding boxes. In the first are the entirely white eggs of various species of *Cryptolopha*, and in the next the well-spotted pinkish eggs of the genus *Abrornis*. These two genera are linked together by some of our best ornithologists; but their habits widely differ, and, as every one knows, the former make lovely moss-balls of nests which they line with thistle-down and place in mossy banks or on moss- and fern-covered stumps, whereas the latter lay their eggs in hollow bamboos or tiny holes in stumps on pads of feathers, moss, and vegetable-down. One clutch of eggs, that of *Abrornis schisticeps*, now

shown is, I believe, unique, and the others are very rare. They are: *C. cantator* and *castaneiceps*, *A. superciliaris*, and *albigularis*.

“Other eggs shown are those of *Acrocephalus agricola* and *A. concinnus*, generally considered to be subspecies of the same species, but probably quite distinct, for whilst the two birds vary practically in nothing but their wing-formula, they breed over a huge area together, though the former makes a Reed-Warbler’s nest in swamps, and the latter lays in rose-bushes high up on the open pasture-lands above them. The eggs are indistinguishable.

“The remaining Warblers’ eggs are shown on account of their great rarity, many being unique or almost so. They are: *Graminicola bengalensis striata* (taken by Capt. E. G. Herbert in Siam), *Acanthoptila nepalensis*, *Phaetornis locustelloides*, *Phyllergates coronatus*, *Horeites brunneifrons*, *Urosphema squamiceps*, *Phylloscopus humei humei* and *P. h. premium*, *Phylloscopus nitidus viridanus*, *P. n. plumbeitarsus*, and *P. proregulus*.

“Finally, I show three species of the Regulidæ: (1) *Regulus regulus anglorum*, the eggs of which are too well known to need description, though I would draw special attention to the two finely spotted clutches; (2) *Cephalopyrus flammeiceps*, which lays tiny bright blue eggs in holes of trees sometimes 40 feet from the ground; and (3) *Leptoparula obscura sophie*, a tiny Warbler-like bird which makes a nest (one exhibited) like that of a Long-tailed Wren placed in the thorny scrub-bushes, a few inches high, which cover the great uplands in Tibet where it is found.

“Many of the eggs shown I owe to the great generosity of the following gentlemen. Those from Siam were obtained by Mr. J. W. F. Williamson and Captain E. G. Herbert, nearly all the Burmese eggs by Mr. F. M. D. Mackenzie, and those from Ceylon by Mr. W. E. Wait. It is with the greatest pleasure I acknowledge these magnificent gifts, in most cases gifts made with no expectation of any return.”

Mr. Stuart Baker also exhibited, on behalf of Captain C. R. S. Pitman, a fine series of the eggs of *Chettusia leucura*,

taken by that gentleman in Mesopotamia during the recent campaign in that country.

Mr. PERCY F. BUNYARD exhibited the eggs of thirty species of British Warblers from his collection :—

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*). A series embracing practically every known form and many remarkable varieties ; amongst the latter erythrism was represented by four clutches, British and Continental. Also a clutch of five from Surrey almost pure white with suffused grey underlying markings.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*). A representative series in which the rare cyanic form was conspicuous ; the characteristic large suffused brown markings were particularly noticeable in the type eggs.

Garden-Warbler (*Sylvia simplex*). A very beautiful series showing extreme and modified forms, and varieties with pure white and greenish ground.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). In this series varieties were well represented ; conspicuous among them are two clutches of five almost pure white eggs from Suffolk. Compared with “*simplex*” eggs they were smaller on the average. The type eggs of “*atricapilla*” and “*simplex*” could not easily be confused ; varieties, however, require careful identification. A unique series of twenty-five clutches of the erythristic form were also exhibited, British and Continental, and which had taken thirty years to obtain.

Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*). A series from Spain, in which the erythristic form was well represented. These eggs apparently go through a greater variation than “*undatus*” eggs, which they somewhat resemble.

Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia orphea*). Four clutches of typical eggs from Spain.

Subalpine Warbler (*Sylvia subalpina*). Three clutches from Greece and Austria, showing great variation.

Dartford Warbler (*Melizophilus undatus*). A series showing great variation, British and Continental ; among the former, clutches with white ground were conspicuous, the greenish form predominating ; among the latter were

two erythristic clutches, also a clutch of six. A series of nests and mounted specimens of materials were also shown; these were very much admired.

Rufous Warbler (*Agrobates galactodes*) and Grey-backed Warbler (*Agrobates galactodes familiaris*). A small series of each; one of the latter was taken by the late Captain F. C. Selous in Asia Minor. There is apparently no characteristic by which the eggs of these two closely allied species could be safely separated.

Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*). A very beautiful series, embracing practically every known form and variety. Eggs with conspicuous white ground are worthy of note.

Savi's Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*). Two very distinct clutches of five from Hungary; one has the ground-colour almost obliterated by the fine markings, the other has conspicuous white ground finely-speckled brownish black.

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*). Several clutches of five showing great variation in colour, from rose-pink to brick-red.

Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus streperus*). A characteristic series which, however, do not show such a pronounced variation as "*palustris*" eggs.

Blyth's Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*). A clutch of five from the Altai district, Central Asia. These do not differ essentially from *palustris* eggs; they are, however, generally larger and more pointed.

Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*). A series of British and Continental clutches showing great variation in markings and ground-colour; one clutch has a pure white ground, which is apparently rare.

Great Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*). These very handsome eggs were well represented; two clutches of the Eastern form (*A. orientalis*) were also shown. They do not, however, differ except in size, the latter being on the average smaller.

Sedge-Warbler (*Acrocephalus schænobænus*). A series which show little marked variation, which is characteristic of these eggs. The conspicuously mottled form which was represented is, however, worthy of mention.



Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus aquaticus*). Two clutches of five. These do not differ from "*schænobænus*" eggs.

Icterine Warbler (*Hypolais icterina*) and Melodious Warbler (*Hypolais polyglotta*). Clutches of both of these Tree-Warblers were exhibited; they did not show any marked difference. The latter, however, appear to be rather smaller.

Willow-Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). A series showing great variation. The two forms (*i. e.* the spotted, and closely speckled) were represented; also two clutches showing distinct and heavy zones round the large ends.

Arctic Willow-Warbler = Eversmann's Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*). A clutch of four from the Pasvik River, Russian Lapland. Mr. Bunyard said he believed this to be one of the only, if not the only clutch of authenticated eggs in this country. They are recorded in the Bulletin of the B. O. C. for May 26, 1909, No. clii.

Wood-Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*). A very beautiful series, showing extreme and modified forms; among the former were some exceptionally heavily marked clutches.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*). A series of typical clutches; also one well-authenticated clutch of six resembling "*trochilus*" eggs.

Siberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus tristis*). Two clutches which do not differ from "*collybita*" eggs.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus superciliosus*). A typical clutch of four from Turkestan; markings same colour as "*collybita*" eggs.

Pallas' Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*). A typical clutch from N.W. Frontier, India, taken by C. H. T. Whitehead. The markings are darker than in "*trochilus*" eggs.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a series of—

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), from Germany and Sweden, and read the following short paper on them:—

*On the eggs of the Barred Warbler Sylvia nisoria.*

In many works on Oology only meagre reference appears to have been made to these remarkable eggs, and then



mostly in regard to their distinctive characteristics. From an oological point of view, I consider them not only distinctive but absolutely unique, mainly because the whole of the pigment lies beneath the outermost lime layer. In the type egg this is most constant, and even those markings which at first sight appear to be on the surface, I find, on a closer examination, are really beneath the gloss or glutinous layer.

In the series which I exhibit there are one or two eggs with brownish markings which appear to be on the surface, but these I attribute to nest stains.

Lechner in 'Oologia Neerlandica' calls attention to similar characteristics in the eggs of the Common White-throat (*Sylvia communis*); I consider, however, that a certain form (*i. e.* the marbled form of the Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europæus*) shows, oologically, certain well pronounced similar characteristics, as may be seen by the eggs of that species exhibited for comparison. The texture of the shells is also distinctive; some have the appearance of being corrugated; the pittings lie very deep and widely apart.

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#### British Museum Expeditions.

Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe left England on the 14th of November last on an important expedition to the West Coast of Africa on behalf of the British Museum (Natural History). He will be the guest of Captain Dane, R.N., who, in the interests of scientific exploration, most generously invited Mr. Lowe to accompany him as naturalist on H.M.S. 'Dwarf'—of Cameroon fame. Mr. Lowe proceeded to Lagos in Southern Nigeria, and, while waiting to pick up the cruiser, will form a collection of birds in the neighbourhood.

On joining the 'Dwarf,' he will have an opportunity of visiting numerous localities on the West Coast, and hopes to pay particular attention to Gaboon and the Rio Muni and to visit the rivers Moonda, Camma, Agowé, and Muni—the type locality of many of Du Chailla's birds described by Cassin. A special attempt will be made to obtain specimens

of the rare Wood Ibis (*Lampribus rothschildi*) from Prince's Island, which has been recently renamed, and of which we do not possess a single specimen in England. Mr. Lowe also hopes to ascend the Senegal river and to make collections in the interesting country between Dagana and Kayes, and, if circumstances permit, he will visit certain islands of the Cape Verde group, from the study of which, we believe, there is still much to be learnt. Provided the necessary funds are available, the authorities of the Natural History Museum hope to avail themselves to the full of Captain Dane's kindness and to keep Mr. Lowe at work in the field for a year or two. In that case, extremely valuable collections should be obtained for the National Collection and our knowledge of the West African Ornis greatly increased. We understand that as the collections are sent home to the British Museum they will be placed in the hands of Mr. D. A. Bannerman for determination, and that the results will be published, in due course, in the pages of 'The Ibis.' We wish Mr. Lowe the very best of luck in his important undertaking; no better naturalist or collector could have been chosen for the work.

Mr. David A. Bannerman is leaving England on the 10th of January on an expedition on behalf of the British Museum (Natural History). He is proceeding first to Gran Canaria, where he hopes to obtain a series of the rare Partridge (*Caccabis rufa australis*). From Gran Canaria he intends to visit Palma and will camp with his wife in that island for a month, thence proceeding to the islands of Gomera, Hierro, and Tenerife. While in the last-mentioned island he will pay special attention to the desert fauna of the southern coast and hopes to have an opportunity of ascending the famous Peak (12,200 feet). This expedition will complete his Ornithological Survey of the entire group, and the collection of Canarian birds in the British Museum will then be unrivalled.

From the Canary Islands, Mr. Bannerman intends, if he can get a boat, to go down the West African coast to Senegal

and will make his headquarters at Dakar. From this base he hopes to visit the environs of Kayes on the Senegal river. Birds from this locality should prove of exceptional interest, the majority of collectors in the past having confined their attentions to the country traversed by the Dakar-St. Louis railway. Mr. Bannerman expects to return to England again some time in June.

Captain Hubert Lynes, R.N., C.B., C.M.G., and Lieut. J. C. I. McConnel left England on the 24th of December on an expedition to the western part of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. They intend to proceed to El Fasher in Darfur, and thence, if possible, to visit Jebel Marra and other parts of the Anglo-French confines, studying the Ornithology and Natural History. Until 1916, when the rebellious Sultan of Darfur, Ali Dinar, was defeated by the British forces near El Fasher, the huge province of Darfur was only known to the civilised world from a few flying visits by Slatin Pasha and others; the central Saharan highlands of Tibesti to the north-west of Darfur were visited by Nachtigal in 1869, his journey occupying five years, and more recently between 1912-1917 by Commandant Tilho, but practically nothing has been recorded of the Natural History of these vast territories. We are authorised to say that the Natural History collections acquired by the present expedition will be presented to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). As will be seen from this resumé of their plans, Captain Lynes and Lieut. McConnel have embarked on an extremely enterprising expedition, the results of which should prove of very great value. The province of Darfur is a *terra incognita* to the Ornithologist, and we look forward with special interest to the ornithological results obtained, which should help considerably to fill in a gap long felt by workers on north African birds. We hope that if occasion permits, Captain Lynes will send us further news of his adventurous journey.

**Queensland Discussion of Penguin Protection.**

At the Brisbane Congress of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, Mr. C. Lord (Tasmania) emphasized the necessity for Macquarie Island being made a sanctuary for the preservation of the Penguin. Captain White (South Australia) moved "That this Union is of the opinion that Macquarie Island should be declared a sanctuary for the perpetuation of the fauna of the Antarctic." He said that the Federal Government proposed to buy the island from Tasmania, which asked £15,000 for it. This was rather high, seeing that the island was leased for £40 a year for private exploitation. Dr. Mawson had said there would very soon be a dash into Antarctica to secure its furs and oils, and it was very desirable that the Federal Government should step in and make a sanctuary of Macquarie Island. Mr. Lord seconded the motion, which was carried, and the Council was empowered to take action even to the expenditure of funds to secure the object of the motion.

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We have just heard that the Editor of 'The Ibis' intended to be present at the annual meeting of the A. O. U. during his stay in New York, where he had been working at the Museums. About the end of December it was his intention to leave for Japan, *via* Vancouver, where we hope that he will be as successful as he will be interested in observing the birds of the Islands.

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We are informed with regard to Dr. Hartert's work 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna,' that Part X., beginning with the Ibididae, is now in print, and will probably appear early in 1920. As the whole manuscript is completed, this work will not remain unfinished, and subsequent parts are expected to come out in reasonable time. The printing, however, is at present only possible with pecuniary sacrifice, and the price of each part will be considerably increased. The work will be larger than originally estimated and will extend to three big volumes, including a supplement to Volume I.